

ABSTRACT

'XIA YEN' is a distinctive new evergreen holly distinguished from all other forms of *Ilex* in that it combines a unique combination of desirable landscape and production traits from the parental species, *I. opaca* and *I. cassine*. Plants have a well branched slender upright conical growth habit with annual crops of red berries and leaves which maintain superior color throughout the year as compared to other *Ilex X attenuata* clones such as 'Foster #2', 'Foster #3', and 'East Palatka'. During commercial production Xia Yen requires less shearing and produces fewer culls than the Foster hollies. Plants have the environmental tolerances of the *I. opaca* parentage. It is anticipated 'Xia Yen' will be marketed bearing the DIXIE STAR HOLLY trademark.